

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 12283 080821Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----028884 080831Z /10

P 080800Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3434

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12283

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, RP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF US-ASEAN DIALOGUE

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 5154, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 5157, (C) STATE 184488

1. GOP OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH ASEAN ARE STILL AWAY IN KUALA LUMPUR AND WILL NOT BE BACK UNTIL AUGUST 11. ONLY OTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE ON ASEAN READILY AVAILABLE IS SINGAPORE EMBASSY WHICH IS IGNORANT OF REPORTED POSTPONEMENT. ON OTHER HAND, SINGAPORE EMBASSY INDICATED THAT ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTRIES ARE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS AND WOULD BE MORE INVOLVED THAN WOULD USUALLY BE THE CASE.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, "BULLETING TODAY" REPORTED AUGUST 7 THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS DESIGNATED SECRETARY ROMULO TO HEAD GOP DELEGATION AND ACT AS ASEAN SPOKESMAN DURING US/ASEAN DIALOGUE. SECRETARY ROMULO, IN TURN, SAID HE HAD ASKED FOR MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR WITH NEDA DIRECTOR GENERAL SICAT AND INDUSTRY
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SECRETARY PATERNO TO SEEK THEIR VIEWS WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL "SINCE THE THRUST OF THE DIALOGUE WILL BE MAINLY ECONOMIC." ROMULO ALSO STATED HE WAS SEEKING VIEWS OF OTHER ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD CALL IN MANILA TWO ASEAN PREPARATORY MEETINGS ON AUGUST 26-28 AND SEPTEMBER 5-6.

3. COMMENT. ABOVE INDICATES THAT ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTRIES WILL

TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE CONSULTATIONS, AND THE NAMING OF
ROMULO, AS THE SPOKESMAN WOULD NOT ONLY PERMIT THIS BUT ALSO
PRESERVE THE PEROGATIVES OF THE VARIOUS FOREIGN OFFICES.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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